

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are currently being amended. Claims 18, 20, 23-27, 47, 49 and 54 remain pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 18, 20, 23-26, 47, 49 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,334,049 to Somasundaram et al. (hereafter "Somasundaram") in view of U.S. Patent 7,228,359 to Monteiro (hereafter "Monteiro"). Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Somasundaram and Monteiro, and in further view of U.S. Patent 7,103,663 to Inoue et. al. (hereafter "Inoue"). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 18 recites:

A packet transfer device for controlling a transfer of a plurality of packets between a client and a destination, said packet transfer device comprising:

a DNS proxy unit for receiving a name resolution response message transmitted from a name resolution server to said client, said name resolution response message including an IP address corresponding to said destination and one or more packet transfer information fields, and for rewriting a routing table of said DNS proxy unit to include said IP address and said one or more packet transfer information fields, wherein said DNS proxy unit is configured to control said transfer of the packets between said client and said destination according to said one or more packet transfer information fields,

wherein said one or more packet transfer information fields include at least one of a packet transfer priority field, a logical network identifier, and a logical channel identifier,

wherein said one or more packet transfer information fields include the packet transfer priority field,

wherein the packet transfer device further comprises a user information obtaining unit which obtains attribute information regarding a sender of a name resolution request message transmitted from said client to said name resolution server,

wherein said DNS proxy unit, upon receiving said name resolution request message, obtains said attribute information regarding the sender of said name resolution request message through said user information obtaining unit and transmits said name resolution request message with said attribute information added to said name resolution server, and

wherein said attribute information includes at least one of a login identifier of the sender, information identifying a geographic location of the sender, information identifying a type of a sender device used by the sender in sending the name resolution request message, and information identifying a type of a network coupling the sender device to the name resolution server.

The references cited in the rejection of the claims fail to disclose at least the above italicized features of claim 18. With respect to the above italicized features of claim 18, the Patent Office on pages 3 to 4 of the Office cites to Monteiro as disclosing these features. Applicants respectfully disagrees.

Monteiro discloses a method and apparatus for providing domain name service based on a client identifier. In particular, Monteiro discloses in col. 5, lines 22-41:

In order for the client 34 to obtain resolution of a domain name, the client 34 sends a DNS request 42 to the data communications device 30. The DNS request 42 includes, among other things, a domain name section 48 and a source address section. The contents of the domain name section 48 contains a domain name identifying the domain (e.g., "www.domain1.com") and the contents of the source address section include a client identifier (i.e., the Internet address of the client 34) identifying the client 34 as the source of the DNS request 42. The data communications device 30 receives the DNS request 42, and generates a second DNS request 44 which it sends to the DNS server 22. The second DNS request 44 includes, among other things, a domain name section 50 and a source address section. The contents of the domain name section 50 contains a flag 54 (e.g., "C-X"), the client identifier or CLIENT_ID 56 (e.g., an Internet address having the form "AAA.BBB.CCC.DDD") identifying the client 34 (e.g., the Internet address of the client 34), and the domain name 58 identifying the domain (e.g., "www.domain1.com").

Thus, in Monteiro, when the client (corresponding to the client of claim 18) transmits a DNS request (corresponding to the name resolution request of claim 18) to the data communication

device (corresponding to the packet transfer device of claim 18), the client transmits the DNS request including a client identifier (col. 5, line 29). Monteiro further discloses that when receiving the DNS request containing the client identifier from the client, the data communication device transmits a second DNS request including the client identifier to a DNS server (corresponding to name resolution server of claim 18) (See col. 6, lines 51-53).

Monteiro, however, does not disclose the above italicized features of claim 18, and in particular does not disclose “wherein the packet transfer device further comprises a user information obtaining unit which obtains attribute information regarding a sender of a name resolution request message transmitted from said client to said name resolution server,” as that attribute information is defined in claim 18. Rather, in Monteiro, the data communication device merely adds the client identifier in the DNS request received from the client to the second DNS request as it is. Monteiro does not disclose any user information obtaining unit which obtains attribute information regarding a sender of a name resolution request message, as that attribute information is defined in claim 18, or transmitting the name resolution request message with the attribute information added to the name resolution server as in claim 18. Monteiro merely discloses that the client identifier is “the Internet address of the client” (col. 5, line 29), and does not suggest the attribute information of claim 18 where “said attribute information includes at least one of a login identifier of the sender, information identifying a geographic location of the sender, information identifying a type of a sender device used by the sender in sending the name resolution request message, and information identifying a type of a network coupling the sender device to the name resolution server.” Thus even if Somasundaram and Monteiro were combined, the combination would not have all of the features of claim 18.

Inoue was cited for disclosing other features of the claims, but fails to cure the deficiencies of Somasundaram and Monteiro.

Independent claims 47 and 54 have features corresponding to those discussed above with respect to claim 18 in the context of a computer-readable storage medium claim and a method claim, respectively, and are patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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